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NEW BOOKS, MAGAZINES &c.

We have received the Diamond Edition of Charles Dickens' admirable novel, *Martin Chuzzlewit*. It is of course as beautiful in all respects as to typography, paper and binding, as the preceding volumes, and fully sustains the general opinion that this edition is justly entitled to a wide spread circulation throughout the country.

The illustrations of *Martin Chuzzlewit*, by S. Eytinge, Jr., are among the best, if not the best of the series. They have the strongest individuality of character, realized from the written delineations, and yet are quite free from exaggerated caricature. Mr. Eytinge has a clear and fine appreciation of characteristic idiosyncrasies.

Appleton's *Hand Book of American Travel*, has just been published. It comprises the Northern tour, including thirty-one States, and Canada and the British Provinces. The full value of this work can only be appreciated by those who travel. The amount of information it contains is really remarkable; every place of any importance on the route is noted, together with its population and other valuable and interesting statistics. For the larger cities it is truly a comprehensive directory, as well for business men as pleasure seekers, and there is scarcely a point of trade or social interest but what will be found in this "Hand Book," well and accurately described. It also gives reliable information respecting the roads of travel by water or by land. In short it is a work that should be in the hands of every one; of those who travel, and of those who stay at home, for it is as valuable a book of reference for the one as for the other. It has a copious supply of fine maps, prepared like the information, up to the present date, which is by no means one of the least valuable of its characteristics.

ART MATTERS.

As the summer advances and that time-honored old gentleman, Mr. Sol, increases his attentions towards this sublunary sphere, the artists begin to quit their winter haunts and fly, like the hart, to "cool water brooks." Many are already flown while others are preparing for flight, in the meantime envying their more fortunate brethren who, freed from the trammels of the mushroom town, are disporting themselves beneath waving trees and by the sides of purling brooks.

Paletta, too, has been breathing the pure air of the country and indulging in much physical exertion for the last week. Up on the Hudson, within a stone's throw of the "Danskammer," nestled in a clump of cherry trees, is a pretty little cottage which commands a fine view of the river; steamboats are passing and repassing, sloops dot the surface of the river here and there, lazily pursuing their course; on the opposite shore the railroad cars go screeching along while over all is the drowsy humming of the insects; and as I pull along the river in a tiny-row boat, or stretch myself upon the grass and watch the changing clouds, I heartily wish there were no such things as the *ART JOURNAL* or art criticism, for of a verity, man, to thoroughly enjoy this glorious summer weather, should do so beneath

green trees and not the baking roof of a city house.

There is nothing in the way of novelty in the picture galleries just at present. Picture buyers as well as picture painters are out of town, and the picture sellers sit in their shops and long for the winter. In this predicament the picture critic is at a loss what to write about, and must perforce content himself with abstract subjects which may or may not prove interesting to his readers. Next week, however, I hope to be able to give to the readers of the *ART JOURNAL* the destinations of our various artists.

Wust sailed for Europe on Wednesday, in the Scotia, to be absent from this country for some two or three years. His destination is Antwerp, from whence he will go to Paris, hoping next year to make another trip among the torrents and mountains of Norway. Since Mr. Wust has been in the city he has painted many fine, in fact grand pictures; his "Norwegian Torrent" and "Torrent by Moonlight" will long be remembered by art lovers as thoroughly great productions, while some of his quieter pastoral efforts, although to a degree lacking finish, are marked by great delicacy of feeling and a true appreciation of the beauties of nature. Mr. Wust carries with him the good wishes of many admirers; a fine painter and a genial companion he must ever be popular, and will be welcomed back again to New York with open arms. In the meantime *bon voyage*.

PALETTA.

HEROIC DEVOTION TO HIS ART.—Mrs. Mathews, in her "Anecdotes of Actors," gives an amusing instance of this. In that scene the play of the "Committee," where Obadiah has to swallow, with feigned reluctance, the contents of a black quart bottle administered to him by Teague, Munden was observed one night to throw an extra amount of comicality and vigor into his resistance, so much so that Johnstone ("Irish Johnstone") the Teague of the occasion, fired with a natural enthusiasm, forced him to drain the bottle to the last drop. The effect was tremendous. The audience absolutely screamed with laughter, and Obadiah was borne off half dead, and no wonder. The bottle, which should have contained sherry and water, was by some mistake filled with the rankest lamp-oil. We will let Mrs. Mathews tell the rest:—When the sufferer had in some degree recovered from the nausea the accident caused, Mr. Johnstone marvelled why Munden should have allowed him, after his first taste, to pour the whole of the disgusting liquid down his throat. "It would," Johnstone said, "have been easy to have rejected, or opposed a repetition of it, by hinting the mistake to him." Mr. Munden's reply—by gasps—was as follows: "My dear boy, I was about to do so, but there was such a glorious roar at the first face I made upon swallowing it, that I hadn't the heart to spoil the scene by interrupting the effect, though I thought I should die every time you poured the accursed stuff down my throat."

The jury who had the award of the prizes for musical compositions for the Great Exposition have come to a definite conclusion. They have selected four, MM. Salveyre, scholar of M. Ambroise Thomas; Godard, scholar of M. Reber; Marechal, scholar of M. Victor Masse; Bernard, scholar of M. Reber.

OPERA IN GERMANY.—A foreign correspondent writes, "As soon as one enters Germany he perceives a change. He is surprised at finding an opera company in every town which boasts fifteen thousand people. He will find great actors very rare, but the stock companies most excellent. Throughout the year the drama and opera alternate, both companies occupying the same stage, each playing three or four times a week. Let us commence with the opera. In Berlin and Vienna one can hear one hundred and thirty to forty operas a year, by the finest singers in the world and unequalled orchestras; operas never sung and rarely heard of in America are found in the repertory, and the companies are so immense that an opera is rarely repeated so often as in our little representations of two weeks' or a month's duration. The two finest tenors in the world are now engaged in Berlin, Nachtel and Niemann, Niemann is bound by contract to sing four months during each year, for which he receives six thousand dollars (this is in Deutschland please remember), and is allowed to pass the remaining eight months in singing as 'gastspieler,' or as we term it, in 'starring.'"

ITEMS FROM FOREIGN PAPERS.

BRUNSWICK.—Herr Wachtel has received a valuable brilliant ring from the Duke.

BRESLAU.—The temporary Theatre is now closed, and the new Theatre will be opened in October.

MUNICH.—Herr Johann Caspar Aiblinger, Royal *Hof-Capellmeister*, died, on the 6th inst., at the age of eighty-eight. He was very favorably known for his sacred compositions.

HERR FERDINAND HILLER.—This accomplished composer has been named an honorary member of the Berlin Tonkünstler-Verein. The number of honorary members has hitherto been always limited to two.

PAYMENT OF MUSICIANS AT VIENNA.—The artists who recently performed at the Court Concert were all paid in gold. Herr Herbert received 100 ducats for himself, together with a sum to be distributed as he should think fit among the other artists. Of this, the soloists, Mdlle. Artot, Madame Dustmann, Herren. Walter, Rokitsky, and Panzer, received 50 ducats each; Herr Hellmesberger, 40; Herren. Doppler and Lowy, 30 each; Herr Hasting, violincellist, Herr Beck, hautboy-player, and the two harpists, 12 each. The other members of the orchestra had five ducats each. A very flattering letter was addressed by Herr Herbeck to the members of the Manner-Gesangverein and of the Singverein.

DRESDEN.—Cimarosa's "Matrimonio Segreto" has been revived with great success.—The Committee of the Tonkunsterverein has published its report of the doings of the Society from April, 1866, to Easter, 1867. This report is highly gratifying. At the four public performances, no less than nine very important works were performed by the members for the first time: Sonata for pianoforte and violin (Cp. 35), Xiel; a "Concerto Grosso," Handel; a Symphony, Wilhelm Friedrich Bach; "Suite in Canonform," J. Otto Grimm; "Ciaccone," for violin and pianoforte, Vitali (arranged by Herr David); Sonata, Rust (1795); Concerto, for two violins, Handel; Quintet, Hoffmann; and Suite, for violoncello, Bach. Besides the above four performances there were seventeen meetings for practice. The total number of works performed were 61, 33 being performed for the first time. Including 15 honorary and 9 foreign members, the Society numbers 164 ordinary, and 76 extraordinary members.